

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 26, 1891.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DAVIS, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 13688.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred "An act to pension John B. Angell, father of James C. Angell, alias John McShier, late of Company G, Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry," have examined the same, and report their concurrence in the report of the House committee, herewith appended, and their recommendation that the bill do pass.

HOUSE REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 13688) to pension John B. Angell, father of James C. Angell, of Company G, Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, submit the following report:

The proposed beneficiary is the father of James C. Angell, alias John McShier, who served as private of Company G, Fifth Pennsylvania Cavalry, from August 10, 1861, to August 7, 1865, when mustered out of service.

The father's claim for pension has been rejected on the ground that the evidence fails to show that the soldier's death was the result of his military service.

It appears in evidence that soldier at date of his discharge was entirely broken down with rheumatism and chronic diarrhea, and when he reached the home of a relative near White Haven, Pa., he was so weak as to compel him to stay there for a few days. Having rested himself he started for his father's place, about 50 miles distant. He never reached there; but about a month after his discharge a letter was received by the father from that relative that the soldier had died on the road.

This letter was burned up with the contents of claimant's house, and the relative, and others who knew of the soldier's serious illness and death have since died. It is therefore impossible for the claimant to procure the evidence required by the Pension Office. The case has, however, been specially investigated, in particular with reference to a rumor that soldier after leaving the house of his relative near White Haven, had been murdered for his money. The most thorough investigation failed to trace such rumor to any reliable source, but rather strengthened the presumption that soldier fell by the wayside from exhaustion, as was claimed by his relatives at the time.

The special examiner, in submitting the case for admission says:

"The testimony taken, and that which is reliable, shows that the soldier was in a very weak and debilitated condition at the time that he was at David Dean's house; that he was a mere skeleton from the effects of chronic diarrhea and rheumatism incurred in service. He was still suffering from those diseases when last seen. In the absence of proof to the contrary, the presumption is that he died of those ailments, and in that belief, and as the claimant is extremely old and feeble, I think the claim should be settled on the testimony already in, etc.

Claimant had four sons in the army during the late war. He is now 95 years of age, and dependent upon the charity of his children. The mother of the soldier died in 1852.

Your committee are of opinion that the soldier died from disease contracted during his 4 years of service, and that his dependent condition entitles the claimant to a pension.